

*Building accountability for the  
AO of Argentina through  
the use of a WB Grant*



# Anticorruption Office (AO)

Created by Congress  
Law N° 25233  
in 1999

# Mission

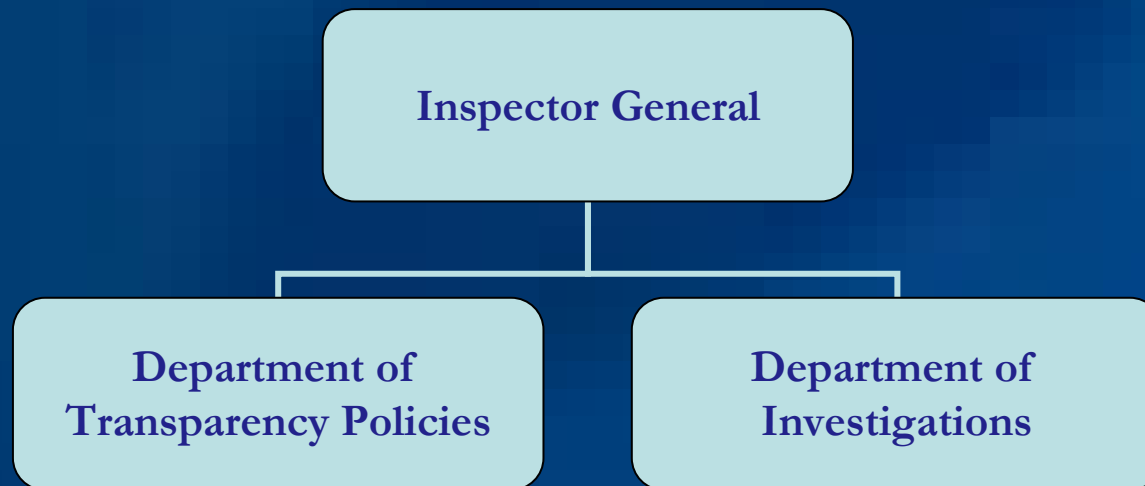
- To investigate acts of corruption within the National Public Administration (centralized and decentralized).
- To formulate and implement policies to increase transparency and prevent corruption.

# *What is the National Public Administration?*

- ✓ Ministries.
- ✓ Secretaries of the executive, agencies and state-owned corporations.
- ✓ Any public or private organization receiving federal funds.

The AO has no jurisdiction over matters of the Judicial and Legislative branches, nor the provincial and municipal governments.

# AO - Structure



# *AO - Concept*

Public agency responsible for the implementation of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption within the Executive Branch of the Federal Government

Attack on corruption must address the complexity of the corruption phenomenon through a systemic approach

Articulation between prevention and investigation of corruption constitutes the special characteristic of the Anticorruption Office of Argentina.

# World Bank Grant IDF 27282

## Main Characteristics

- Awarded: 1998 to the ONEP – Turned to AO in 2000
- Total amount: US\$ 410.000
- To be used in activities related to AO institutional straightening



# *Department of Transparency Policies*

- ✦ Elaborates policies and programs to prevent corruption and increase transparency in the National Public Administration.
- ✦ Promotes international cooperation in prevention of corruption and in implementation of transparency policies.

# *WB Grant - Main Activities Funded*

- Implementation of new electronic **Financial Disclosure Forms** – Internet based (2000 – 2001)
- Diagnosis of Corruption in the National Public Administration (2000)
- Evaluation of financial disclosure forms (illicit enrichment and conflicts of interest) (2002 – 2004)
- Rulemaking processes for discussion of legislation on lobbies, whistleblower protection, public procurement and access to public information (2002 – 2004)
- Assets recovery research (2004)
- Corruption Risks Evaluation Map (2004)
- Editing of successful experiences reports (2003 – 2004)
- Implementation of IACC at sub national levels (Plan Provincias) (2003 - 2004)



# *Plan Provincias – The grounds of the Plan*

## Interamerican Convention Against Corruption

- \* New paradigm in the fight against corruption
- \* Implementation of IACC's Follow up Mechanism (peer review)

# *Plan Provincias – The grounds of the Plan*

Argentina was the first country evaluated (2003) by the Experts Committee of the Follow up Mechanism

Central recommendation



In Federal Countries, provinces and local governments **must** implement IACC

# *The importance of anticorruption policies at sub national levels*

## Distribution of tax expenditure

- ✓ Federal Government \_\_\_\_\_ 42 %
- ✓ Provinces \_\_\_\_\_ 56 %

## Distribution of public officials

- ✓ Federal Level \_\_\_\_\_ 19 %
- ✓ Provincial Level \_\_\_\_\_ 64 %
- ✓ Municipal Level \_\_\_\_\_ 17%

# *AO's Main Prevention Policies*

- Financial disclosure forms System
- Conflict of Interests policies
- Transparency in public procurement processes
- Civil society participation mechanisms
- Quality improvement processes in Federal Agencies
- Access to Information regulations and practices

# *The Foundations of Plan Provincias*

**Pilot Plan with three provinces: Mendoza,  
Chubut and Corrientes**

**Aim**

**Cooperation and technical assistance**

**Topics**

**Dispositions of the IACC**

**Key provincial actors**

**Top government officials, legislators, judges, civil society, academia, media representatives, etc.**

# *Plan Provincias - Structure*

## 1. DIAGNOSIS REPORTS PHASE

### Main Characteristics:

- Objective tool → guide in subsequent phases
- Terms of references prepared by Anticorruption Office
- Local consultant firm is selected – Public Universities

# *Plan Provincias - Structure*

## 1. DIAGNOSIS REPORTS PHASE

- Provincial Issues under analysis :
  - Public Administration structure
  - Existence of corruption prevention and investigation agencies and performance
  - Active NGOs in corruption prevention field
  - Role of the media in corruption investigations
  - Existence of adequate laws and regulations for fight against corruption
  - Public Agencies sensible to corruption
  - Perception of corruption problems by key actors

# *Plan Provincias - Structure*

## 2. REGIONAL SEMINARS PHASE

### Goals

Debate of corruption problems at sub national levels

Discussion on effective tools for local corruption problems

Incorporation of new actors to the discussion

Dissemination of corruption prevention policies

# *Plan Provincias - Structure*

## 3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PHASE

Using data from Diagnosis and Seminars



Technical Assistance Plan (TAP)

# *Plan Provincias - Structure*

## 3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PHASE

### Goals of the TAP

- Institutional strengthening
- Transparency and efficiency working together
- Improvement of public resource allocation
- Expansion of civil society participation in formulation and monitoring public policies

# *Plan Provincias - Results*

## ● Products:

- 3 Provincial Diagnosis Reports
- 3 Regional Seminars organized (over 800 participants)
- 2 Provincial Technical Assistance Plans
- 1 General Technical Assistance Plan
- 2 Syllabus Drafts for Anticorruption degrees in local Universities

# *Plan Provincias - Results*

- Strong political commitment in corruption prevention work:
  - Governors
  - Ministers
  - Judges
  - Legislators
  - General Prosecutors
  - Comptroller Generals
  - Media representatives
  - NGOs massive participation

# *Plan Provincias - Results*

Total cost of Pilot Plan



US\$ 80.000

Time of execution



6 months

# *Plan Provincias – Lessons Learned*

- Longer period for Diagnoses' findings validation
- Need for an effective interlocutor at the provinces
- Recognise the different interests of various groups involved
- Long term assignment: cultural change

# *Provincias Plan - Future Challenges*

- Expand the Plan to the rest of the Provinces in Argentina
- Overcome some political obstacles in certain provinces
- Begin work with municipalities
- Implant permanent capabilities in local actors
- Analyse the feasibility of using the same model in other countries

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